

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application, as amended, is respectfully requested. In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-6 and 19-22 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chou (U.S. Publication No. 2002/0099796) in view of Katzman et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2002/0046051). The Examiner also rejected Claim 23 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chou in view of Katzman et al., and further in view of Monteleone et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,184,973).

Claims 1 and 19 are being amended to distinguish over the prior art reference Chou whether taken alone or in combination with Katzman and Monteleone.

For the reasons set forth below Claims 1-6 and 19-23 patently distinguish over the prior art and are allowable. The Examiner is, accordingly, respectfully asked to reconsider and to withdraw the rejection of Claims 1-6 and 19-23 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) and to allow Claims 1-6 and 19-23.

With respect to the rejection of Claim 1, Claim 1 is being amended to distinguish over Chou, Katzman and Monteleone. Claim 1 is being amended to set forth that the agent helps the user create orders through a chat window. Claim 19 is similarly amended.

Particularly, the present invention, as claimed in Claim 1, as now amended, discloses a method of creating and providing information about a requisition order, comprising the steps: providing an automated agent for receiving and identifying a set of inquiries about the requisition order, and for each identified inquiry, preparing an associated response; a user transmitting to the agent one of said set of inquiries; the agent identifying the transmitted inquiry and preparing the associated response; using an instant messaging system to send said associated response from the agent to the user; the user initiating a session with the agent via the instant messaging system;

and the user and the agent interactively communicating during said session via the instant messaging system to create the requisition order, wherein the agent helps the user create orders through a chat window. Respectfully, no new matter is being entered as full support can be found in the present specification at p.4, paragraph [0021].

In the patent application, in Figure 1, the agent 20 helps the user 22 create orders through a chat window, eliminating the need to use a Website to create the orders. As an example, the user may enter the message "I want to order business cards." The agent then asks the user "How many?" and the user provides an answer, for example "200." The agent then asks or prompts the user for any additional needed information, such as their shipping address and accounting information, and then submits the order to the requisitioning system. The agent 20 may communicate with requisitioning system 16 via the Internet 24, or the agent may be directly connected to the requisitioning system, as represented at 26. Support in the specification can be found on p.4 and 5, paragraph [0021].

The prior art of record does not disclose the added claim limitation of an agent that helps the user create orders through a chat window. In the rejection, the Examiner refers to paragraphs 0024-0025 and 0045-0046 in Chou. However, in this regard Chou merely describes a system for generating a requisition that comprises a client computer system and a server computer system connected via a network. The client computer is configured to allow a plurality of users to access the server computer system. The system further includes a server application comprising a user interface running on the server computer system and having a multi-tier architecture. The multi-tier architecture includes a first tier of client application code for initiating processing by the server application in response to input by a user of the client computer system, a middle tier of object-oriented server application code, and a third tier of shared access and data code. An

application programming interface is configured to allow a user, such as a system administrator or the like, to customize the user interface. In a further aspect, a method of customizing a server application is also provided. Chou does not disclose an agent that helps the user create orders through a chat window. For this reason, Claim 1 is not rendered unpatentable in view of Chou taken alone.

Katzman, respectfully, if of no help as it does not teach the added claim limitation of an agent that helps the user create orders through a chat window. In the rejection, the Examiner refers to paragraph 0026 and 0028 in Katzman. However, in this regard Katzman merely describes techniques that are used in an on-line concession stand using software. The on-line concession stand (MCS) application includes an order wizard, a supplier console and a database of information. The MCS application provides for users to view and purchase products on-line from suppliers. Any one or more a variety of communication techniques and devices may be used in completing the transaction including instant messaging. A database organization includes a data organization to facilitate the transaction as well as electronic browsing. Again there is no mention of an agent that helps the user create orders through a chat window. For this reason, Claim 1 is not rendered unpatentable in view of Chou when taken in combination with Katzman.

Monteleone, respectfully, is of no help as it does not teach the added claim limitation of an agent that helps the user create orders through a chat window. In the rejection, the Examiner refers to Columns 5 and 10 in Monteleone. However, in this regard Monteleone merely describes an order entry and visibility system which is a combination of network technologies that make it possible for a first user, typically a purchaser, to enter product orders electronically, communicate such to a second user, typically a supplier and provide for the second user to generate completed shipping labels upon fulfilment of at least a portion of the order. The system

provides advantages for both the first user, purchaser and second user, supplier. The purchasers of products are provided a means of entering product orders via a network application and have immediate access to order and shipment status via the network application. The supplier of the product accesses the network application to process the order and generate a completed shipping label upon the fulfillment of the order. Again there is no mention of an agent that helps the user create orders through a chat window. For this reason, Claim 1 is not rendered unpatentable in view of Chou when taken in combination with Katzman and Monteleone.

In light of the differences between Claims 1 and 19 and the prior art, Claims 1 and 19 patently distinguish over Chou whether taken alone or in combination with Katzman and Monteleone and are allowable. Claims 2-6 and 20-23 are dependent from, and are allowable with Claims 1 and 19. The Examiner is thus, respectfully asked to reconsider and to withdraw the rejection of Claims 1-6 and 19-23 and to allow these claims.

If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference with Applicant's Attorneys would be advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is asked to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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